

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
CLERK / TREASURER

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
CHRISTOPHER J. ADAMS  
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.  
PARKER J. DURHAM  
GARY L. HENRY  
MICHAEL D. NORDSTROM

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING JUNE 10, 2013 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Reverend Paul Bovankovich said the opening prayer. The roll call was then taken. Those in attendance were: Councilmembers Durham, Cephas, Nordstrom, Mayor Spratt, Attorney Robert Merriken, and Clerk Avery. Councilmen Adams and Henry were absent.

The Agenda was approved with a Motion from Councilman Nordstrom, seconded by Councilman Durham and passed with a vote of 2-1. Councilman Cephas opposed.

The Minutes of the Open Session Meeting on May 28, 2013 were approved with a Motion from Councilman Durham and a second from Councilman Nordstrom. With no discussion, the Motion was approved with a vote of 2-1. Councilman Cephas opposed.

**Mayor's Report** – The Mayor announced there would not be a Town meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> due to the MML Convention. There was news regarding the Medical Center. On Thursday June 6, 2013, Mayor Spratt and Clerk Avery met with the President and CEO of Nanticoke Memorial Hospital and the Senior Vice-President. Dr. Fadden was also in attendance. The meeting lasted approximately two hours with questions being asked and answered. There are still details to be worked out, but the feeling of the meeting was very positive and Nanticoke is very excited to be coming to Hurlock. At this time, the building is vacant as Choptank Community Health Center maintains possession until July.

**County Councilman Rick Price Report** – The County Council met last Tuesday. The County watermen are having issues at the Tyler's Cove Marina. They are having problems getting in and out of the channel due to lack of dredging, which has been going on for several years. There are efforts being made to get the Corps of Engineers to give the Council a date as to when they can get the cove dredged out so that access in and out would be much easier. The Council agreed to contact the State and Congressional Delegation to try to get this issue moving along. The Council also voted to request, along with other counties, an initiative to establish a governance in the State of Radio Systems

Communications between this time and 2018, which is when emergency communications is expected to go from 800 MHz to 700 MHz radios, to put into place a body of knowledgeable people to oversee that this is done properly.

The Council renewed an intergovernmental agreement with the Maryland Environmental Service. MES manages the County Landfills and has since the previous landfill foreman retired in 2012. It was noted in a report that there have been improvements in the last 1 ½ years with the equipment maintenance, equipment maintenance, safety, regulatory compliance, and the use of covers in the landfill. The Council adopted a Resolution to take a stance opposing the Maryland Firearms Safety Act, passed by the General Assembly this year at the request of neighboring counties, which includes Cecil and Carroll. This is from issues pertaining to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and the Constitution and there are things in it that are already in place in current law. The County Council recognized Mr. Scott Wheatley with a Dorchester County Commendation for being chosen as the EMS Provider of the Year for the whole State of Maryland. Mr. Wheatley is from the Hurlock area. The Council also recognized the Cambridge-South Dorchester baseball team for winning the State Championship two weeks ago. The next County Council meeting will be Tuesday June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Cephas questioned Mayor Spratt about the meeting with Nanticoke Hospital and asked if their coming to the Hurlock Medical Center is a done deal. The Mayor responded that she did not say that and that nothing is a done deal until the papers are signed, but Nanticoke is working on coming to Hurlock. Councilman Cephas said that on the Town website, it states that Choptank Community Health Services refused to speak with the Town. Councilman Cephas went on to say he spoke with Senator Colburn's office and they indicated that was not the case. Mayor Spratt responded that the information the Town received came from Senator Colburn's office. Clerk Avery verified this, who stated Jessica from Senator Colburn's office said the Senator had been in contact with the Town Office and in regards to that, the Senator had been in contact with CCHS and the Senator was informed by CCHS they were not interested in any communication at all with the Town. Councilman Cephas stated he received an e-mail from Joe Sheehan and he indicated two things; 1) that they were never approached with an offer of free rent and, 2) that they approached the Mayor and was sent to an old building outside of town to look at, but nothing was given to them. They further stated they came to the Town looking for help.

### **Department Reports –**

**Police Report** - Captain Mike Henry was representing the department in the absence of Chief Les Hutton. Captain Henry stated that last year the police department contacted the Maryland Highway Safety Office and found there was grant monies available for police departments for traffic enforcement; seat belt enforcement, DUI, and aggressive driving. The Hurlock Police Department was able to obtain a grant that was effective January 1, 2013. Last year the police department participated in a program called Law Enforcement Challenge. This program was targeted towards enforcement and education efforts made by the Town. Several businesses put up signs – Buckle Up for Safety, Click It or Ticket,

and the officers gave literature handouts, etc. to the citizens. All of this was put onto a web site for the Chiefs of Police Association. Hurlock Police Department was awarded the distinction of the best police department for its size in the State of Maryland. Captain Henry showed the award received and stated it would be displayed in a prominent place. Also awarded was an extra \$5,000.00 for new radar equipment, preliminary blood testing for DUI, etc., and then whatever was left over went into an overtime account for the officers. Mayor Spratt congratulated Captain Henry and the officers for a great police department.

Councilman Nordstrom commented on Hurlock police officer Jake Garvey, who he observed on the previous Saturday stop his vehicle, get out of his car and proceed to the middle of the road, where he picked up a little turtle and placed it on the side of the road out of harms way, then got back in his car. Councilman Nordstrom continued to say it was really nice to witness such a caring deed from the officer.

### **Old Business –**

Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget – Mayor Spratt announced that all Councilmembers should have a copy of the budget that was e-mailed to them earlier in the day. The Mayor asked Clerk Avery for any comments who proceeded to say it is the same budget they saw previously with additional funds added into for the purchase of a public works vehicle and more funds added in for Local Government Insurance Trust for the Town's insurance policy and snow removal. Mayor Spratt asked for a Motion to Adopt the Budget as presented in the form of a Resolution. Mr. Merriken asked the Mayor about the conference call including Councilman Henry in the vote. With Councilman Henry and Councilman Adams on the speakerphone, Clerk Avery announced that Councilmen Durham, Cephas, and Nordstrom are present at the meeting, along with Mayor Spratt, Attorney Merriken and himself. Clerk Avery then asked the two Councilmen to identify themselves, which they did. Mayor Spratt explained that everyone has in front of them, a copy of the budget, along with a copy of the Resolution. Mayor Spratt further stated that what is needed is a Motion to accept the budget by Resolution. Councilman Cephas had previously made a Motion to wait for everyone to be present, however he withdrew the Motion. Councilman Durham made a Motion to Approve the 2013 Budget as presented and adopt the Resolution 2013-1. Councilman Nordstrom seconded the Motion. Councilman Cephas stated he would like for both Councilmembers not present to recognize there have been changes to the budget. Clerk Avery advised those changes were e-mailed to the Councilmembers last week. No changes have been made since then. Councilman Cephas had a problem that by adding the new police department into this budget, he feels that the Council should recommend that the citizens of Hurlock should vote in a referendum to approve or disapprove the building. The funds can remain in the budget. There are other factors to consider; such as stormwater system is a disaster waiting to happen. That should be a priority. A community center should also be considered for the young people in the community. Councilman Cephas further stated he feels the Town should seriously consider a 5 year projected budget and be cautious in the fact there is a guaranteed production of income in the near future. Councilman Henry questioned if grants are available for such items. Councilman Henry stated that in

speaking with Clerk Avery that there are grants possibly available for stormwater systems. Councilman Cephas feels you cannot depend on the grants and the Council needs to look far into the future in case of a storm causing serious flooding and things such as that. The Mayor asked if there was additional discussion on the floor. There was none. Mayor Spratt went on to say there is a Motion on floor by Councilman Durham to Adopt the Budget and the Resolution 2013-1.

The vote was taken; Durham – Aye, Cephas – Nay, Nordstrom – Aye, Henry – Aye, Adams – abstained. The Motion to Approve the Adoption of the Budget and the Resolution 2013-1 passed with a vote of 3-1. Councilman Adams abstained and Councilman Cephas opposed.

**New Business –**

None.

**Public Comment** - Councilman Cephas commented about the recent invasions of citizen's private e-mail, citizen's phone calls, etc. He feels the government is chipping away at people's rights. Councilman Cephas asks citizens to wake up and see that the rights given to us in the Constitution are in danger of being taken away.

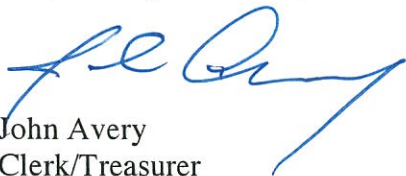
The Mayor announced the next meeting would be Monday July 8<sup>th</sup>.

There was no further public comment.

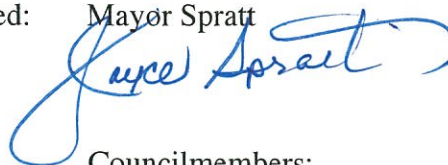
A Motion was made by Councilman Durham to adjourn the meeting. seconded by Councilman Nordstrom and with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

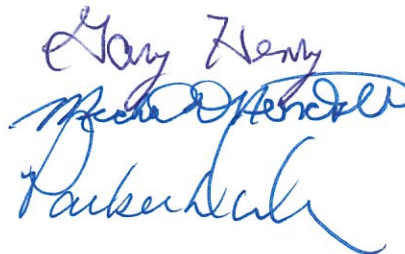
John Avery  
Clerk/Treasurer



Approved: Mayor Spratt



Councilmembers:



MOTIONS AND VOTES BY COUNCILMEMBERS  
OPEN SESSION MEETING  
JUNE 10, 2013

MOTION to approve Agenda – Motion by Councilman Nordstrom, seconded by Councilman Durham, and without discussion, passed with a vote of 2-1. Councilman Cephas opposed the vote.

MOTION to approve Minutes from Open Session Meeting of May 28, 2013 – Motion to approve made by Council Durham, seconded by Councilman Nordstrom. Without discussion, the Motion passed with a vote of 2-1. Councilman Cephas opposed the vote.

Councilman Durham made a Motion to approve the Budget for FY 2013-14 as presented and adopt the Resolution 2013-1. Councilman Nordstrom seconded the Motion. Councilmen Henry and Adams participated in the meeting via conference call. There was considerable discussion by Councilman Cephas. The vote is as follows: Councilmen Durham – Aye, Cephas – Nay, Nordstrom – Aye, Henry – Aye, Adams – abstained. The Motion passed with a vote of 3-1 with Councilman Cephas opposing the vote and Councilman Adams abstaining.

MOTION by Councilman Durham to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Nordstrom and with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.